**The event of the year is near**

Community bankers—can you believe ICBA Community Banking LIVE is almost here? The countdown is on for Carrie and me, and I know it’s on for so many of you, too. I’ve been coming to the convention for almost 25 years, and while my community bank and the industry more widely have changed so much, one thing remains the same: ICBA’s national convention is still the biggest and best event for the nation’s community bankers!

The convention brings thousands of community bankers together to unite not only as ICBA members but also as business leaders and visionaries who represent Main Street America. We’re anticipating a record number of community bankers joining us in Las Vegas—hundreds have already registered.

It’s the perfect venue to network with your peers and gain new perspectives. This year’s educational curriculum offers more than 60 CPE-accredited learning labs. You won’t want to miss the opportunity to attend roundtable sessions about leading topics and trends, hear from powerful keynote speakers and see the latest technology offerings that address customers’ evolving needs.

Speaking of keynote speakers, I personally cannot wait to hear from Robbie Bach, author, innovation expert and former chief Xbox officer for Microsoft. With technology changing so much in financial services and our everyday world, I’m sure he’ll have some great insights on innovation and how we can take our industry to the next level.

We can use events like ICBA Community Banking LIVE to speak with experts and talk with our peers about new ideas and ways that we can better serve our customers and make the community banking experience even better.

ICBA Community Banking LIVE is also an incredible opportunity for new and emerging talent to get better acquainted with the industry and learn from the very best. Even after so many years in the business, I still come away with new ideas, energy and a keen focus on bettering my bank. Imagine what a new community banker would gain from the experience!

As we gather in Las Vegas, we’ll also have the chance to thank and pay tribute to ICBA’s fearless leader Cam Fine, as it will be his last convention as ICBA president and CEO. I’m looking forward to celebrating Cam’s amazing career and thanking him for his unwavering dedication to our industry.

We will celebrate Cam on the last night, so don’t make your flight back home early. The annual reception and banquet has been completely reimagined this year, so plan on being there. I know it will be an outstanding time for Cam and all who attend.

I look forward to seeing you all in Las Vegas! If you haven’t already registered yet, I encourage you to do so. After all, it is the premier community banking event of the year.